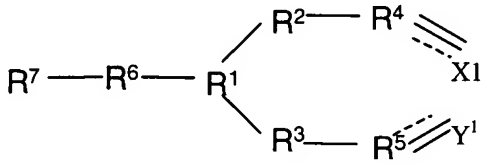
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-42. Canceled

43. (New) A method of adhering or sealing at least one surface said method comprising

(1) applying to at least one surface, a compound of formula (I)



[I]

where R^1 is selected from a heteroatom or a substituted heteroatom which has electron withdrawing properties and R^6 is a bond or -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -OC(O)-, C(S) or $-S(O)_2-$; R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from $(CR^{8'}R^8)_n$, or a group CR^9R^{10}, -$(CR^{8'}R^8CR^9R^{10})$- or $-(CR^9R^{10}CR^{8'}R^8)$- where n is 0, 1 or 2, $R^{8'}$ and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen or alkyl, and either one of R^9 or R^{10} is hydrogen and the other is an electron withdrawing group, or R^9 and R^{10} together form an electron withdrawing group,

R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from C, CH or CR^{11} where R^{11} is an electron withdrawing group, and

R^7 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group, a perhaloalkyl group or a functional group;

the dotted lines indicate the presence or absence of a bond, and X^1 is a group CX^2X^3 where the dotted line bond to which it is attached is absent and a group CX^2 where the dotted line bond to which it is attached is present, Y^1 is a group CY^2Y^3 where the dotted line bond to which it is attached is absent and a group CY^2 where the dotted line bond to which it is attached is present, and X^2, X^3, Y^2 and Y^3 are independently selected from hydrogen and fluorine;

provided that

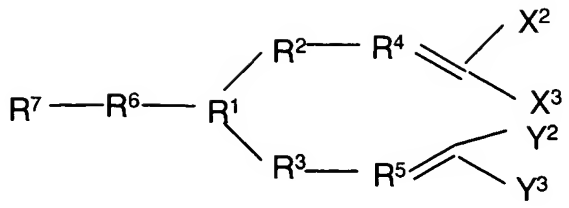
i) at least one of (a) R^1 and R^6 or (b) R^2 and R^3 or (c) R^4 and R^5 includes an electron withdrawing group;

ii) where R^2 and R^3 are both CH_2, R^4 and R^5 are both CH, and R^1 is N, R^6 may not be selected from C(O) or –OC(O)-;

and optionally a polymerisation initiator, and

(2) allowing the compounds of formula (I) to polymerize in contact with said at least one surface and optionally a further surface such that the said at least one surface and said optional further surface are adhered or sealed together.

44. (New) A method according to claim 43 wherein the compound of formula (I) is a compound of formula (IA)



(IA)

where R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, X^2, X^3, Y^2 and Y^3 are as defined in claim 43.

45. (New) A method according to claim 43 wherein the compound of formula (I) is polymerised under the influence of radiation or an electron beam or by reaction with a chemical initiator.

46. A method according to claim 45 wherein the compound of formula (I) is polymerisable under the influence of ultra violet or thermal radiation.

47. (New) A method according to claim 46 which comprises a polymerisation initiator which is a photoinitiator.

48. (New) A method according to claim 43 wherein in the compound of formula (I), R^2 and R^3 are groups $(CR^{8'}R^8)_n$ and R^4 and R^5 are CH groups.

49. (New) A method according to claim 43 where R^1 is selected from nitrogen, $N^+R^{12}(Z^{m-})_{1/m}$, $S(O)_pR^{13}$, B, or $P(O)_qR^{14}$ where R^{12}, R^{13} and R^{14} are independently selected from hydrogen or hydrocarbyl, Z is an anion of valency m, p is 0, 1 or 2, and q is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

50. (New) A method according to claim 49 where R^1 is a $N^+R^{12}(Z^{m-})_{1/m}$ group.

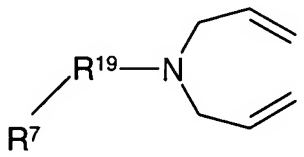
51. (New) A method according to claim 49 where Z is halogen.

52. (New) A method according to claim 49 where R^{12} is alkyl.

53. (New) A method according to claim 43 where R^6 is a group -C(O)O- or -OC(O)-.

54. (New) A method according to claim 43 wherein R^1 is nitrogen, R^6 is -C(O)-, -C(S)- or $-S(O)_2-$.

55. (New) A method according to claim 43 where the compound of formula (I) is a compound of structure (II)



(II)

where R^7 is as defined in claim 43 and $-R^{19}-$ is C(S) or $S(O)_2$.

56. (New) A method according to claim 43 where R^2 and R^3 include an electron withdrawing group.

57. (New) A method according to claim 56 where at least one of R^2 or R^3 include electron withdrawing groups R^9 and R^{10}.

58. (New) A method according to claim 57 wherein R^9 and R^{10} together form an oxo group.

59. (New) A method according to claim 43 wherein R^7 comprises a hydrocarbyl group optionally substituted by a functional group.

60. (New) A method according to claim 43 wherein R^7 includes an unsaturated moiety.

61. (New) A method according to claim 60 wherein the unsaturated moiety is an aryl or alkenyl group, or a carbonyl substituent.

62. (New) A method according to claim 59 wherein R^7 is an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or aryl group.

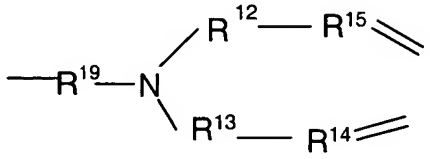
63. (New) A method according to claim 62 wherein R^7 is substituted by halogen, carboxy or salts thereof or acyloxy.

64. (New) A method according to claim 59 where R^7 is a perhaloalkyl group which comprises from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

65. (New) A method according to claim 64 where R^7 is a perhalomethyl group.

66. (New) A method according to claim 59 where R^7 is a dialkenyl substituted amide.

67. (New) A method according to claim 66 wherein the amide is of sub formula (III)

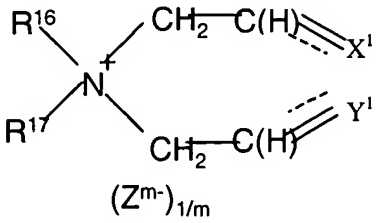


(III)

where R^{19} C(s) or $S(O)_2$, R^{12} and R^{13} are selected from groups defined above for R^2 and R^3 in relation to formula (I) and R^{14} and R^{15} are selected from groups defined above as R^3 and R^4 in relation to formula (I).

68. (New) A method according to claim 67 where R^{12} and R^{13} are $-CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH_2-$ groups and R^{14} and R^{15} are -CH- groups.

69. (New) A method according to claim 43 wherein the compound of formula (I) is a compound of formula (IV)



[IV]

where Z is an anion of valency m, the hydrogen atoms in bracket are absent when the dotted lines represent the presence of a bond, and R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from hydrogen and hydrocarbyl optionally substituted with hydroxy.

70. (New) A method according to claim 69 wherein R^{16} and R^{17} are selected from alkyl, hydroxyalkyl and alkenyl.

71. (New) A method according to claim 70 wherein R^{16} and R^{17} are prop-2-enyl or hydroxyalkyl.

72. (New) A method according to claim 71 wherein hydroxyalkyl is a group of formula $-C((CH_2)_dOH)_a(H)_b$ where a is an integer of from 1 to 3 and b is O or an integer of 1 or 2 provided that a+b is 3, and d is an integer of from 1 to 6.

73. (New) An article which includes at least two surfaces which are adhered together by means of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 43 which has been polymerised.

74. (New) An article according to claim 73 wherein the surfaces comprise glass or metal surfaces or a mixture of these.

75. (New) An article according to claim 73 wherein the polymerised compound of formula (I) provides an electrically conducting layer.

76. (New) A biomedical adhesive which comprises a biocompatible compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 43.

77. (New) A sealant which comprises a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 43.

78. (New) A sealant which comprises a a biocompatible compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 43.